

Bemidji Area OEHE Network:



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TRAVEL AND ARMS

For officers and civil servants that prepare their own travel orders and vouchers using the Automated Resource Management System (ARMS) please be aware of problems that may result from the improper cancellation of **approved** travel orders. Do not cancel travel orders between 4:00 and 4:30 PM. This is when batch files are being created for entry into the CORE system. When a travel order is approved the dollar amount that is associated with that travel is then obligated. If the travel order is later cancelled in ARMS the obligated dollar amount may not be de-obligated in CORE. This can cause confusion at the end of the fiscal year when we are trying to balance the books.

Another issue related to travel is training at Environmental Health Support Center sponsored courses. Staff are urged to wait until they have been nominated by the Area and accepted into courses prior to making travel arrangements. Training nomination forms must be approved by the Area OEHE Training Coordinator, Louis Erdrich, and submitted to the EHSC in Albuquerque. EHSC will notify the nominee and the Area if a nominee has been accepted into a particular course. If approved, then travel plans may be made. If you have questions in this regard ask your supervisor or Mr. Erdrich.

OSHA RECORDKEEPING

The Minnesota Safety Council has software available for purchase that will assist in meeting the new injury and illness record-keeping rules. The revised rules are supposed to result in better information, simplification and better employee privacy. Some provisions regarding hearing loss and musculoskeletal disorders are to be delayed until January 1, 2003. If you are interested in the software you may call Russ at

MSC at 651-228-7326. The program allows one to

~~print the 300 Log and 101 Reports and do cost analysis~~ for your organization. The 300 Form may be downloaded from the OSHA site as well at:

<http://www.osha.gov/>

Of particular note is that the old 200 form must be used to record injuries and illnesses for 2001 and that the 200 form for the 2001 summary be posted from February 1 to March 1, 2002.

The Institutional Environmental Health Officers are working on a Web-based program on which to report injuries and illnesses on an electronic 516 form. Great progress has been made thus far and a demonstration will be made to a DHHS interagency safety management workgroup. The Dept. is interested in developing a new standard data system and is very much interested in the WebCIDENT program. Stay tuned.

PERSONNEL

The Bemidji Area has been notified that Stewart Watson has been selected for a Consumer Safety Specialist position with the Food and Drug Administration. He will be relocating to Florida in March where he will be responsible for surveillance

of food and pharmaceutical industrial settings. Stewart has done a remarkable job in the Rhinelander District in the injury prevention program and in mentoring new environmental health recruits. Our best to you, Stewart.

LEVEL I COURSES

The Bemidji and Aberdeen Areas will be joining forces to present a Level I injury prevention course. The course is set for April 23-26, 2002 in Fargo, N.D. Interested persons should contact Diana Kuklinski at 218-444-0503. A block of rooms has been set aside at the Wingate at rates of \$55 for singles and \$65 for doubles. Participants may call the Wingate at 701-281-9133 to book their own rooms by March 29, 2002. Another course will be conducted May 7-10 in Odanah,

Wisconsin for those that cannot make it to Fargo. More on that course later.

GSA VEHICLE CRASHES

If you are unfortunately involved in a crash in a government owned vehicle you will need to report the crash to GSA. In IHS we try to avoid the word "accident" since that infers that the event was unpredictable and unpreventable. We know better! The number of the GSA "Accident" Control Center is 800-325-2958. When you describe the mishap and the damage done to the vehicle the person on the other end of the line will instruct you as to what paperwork is required. Usually, two estimates, a police report and the SF 91 are all that is required.



WORKSHOP SPEAKER

We are currently arranging for Mr. Gary Slack of Healthcare Engineering Consultants to attend the OEHE workshop in March. He is prepared to discuss a number of safety and accreditation issues. All EHSS and Facility Management personnel that will be attending the workshop are asked to submit their NFPA or Accreditation questions so we may more adequately tailor the presentation to your needs. Subjects proposed thus far for ambulatory settings are: electrical safety, compressed gas safety issues, medical equipment and required management plans. If you have a specific topic you would like covered please notify Bruce Etchison at 218-444-0501.

WEBSITES

The EHSS Institutional Environmental Health website is located at:

<http://www2.ihs.gov/ieh>

This site offers information on accreditation, infection control, policy development and the goings-on of the several IEH Workgroups that have been established.

POISON CONTROL

There is a new National Poison Control number, which transfers one to the nearest local poison control center. The number is: 800-222-1222. The American Association of Poison Control Centers also has a Website at:

<http://www.aapcc.org>

OPEN DUMPS FUNDING

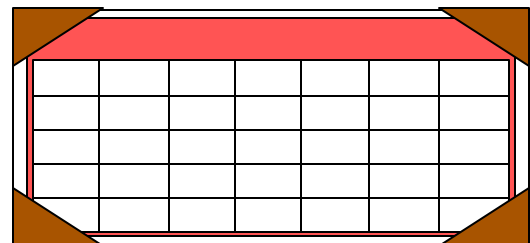
The EPA's Tribal Open Dump Cleanup Project is an effort to assist tribes with closure or upgrade of open dump sites. Goals of the project are to: (1) complete and implement comprehensive waste management plans; (2) develop solid waste management alternatives; (3) close or upgrade existing open dumps; and (4) develop post-closure programs. In 1999 the interagency project awarded an additional \$450,000 to 10 tribes and multi-tribe organizations to develop or enhance solid waste programs. For more information on applying for these funds go to:

www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/new.htm

MERCURY THERMOMETERS

A mercury thermometer exchange was conducted in Bemidji at the local mall with over 900 thermometers turned in for exchange. BAIHS healthcare facilities are encouraged to do likewise, if you haven't already. A source for non-mercury thermometers for exchange programs is: RG Medical Diagnostics in Southfield, MI. Call 888-596-9498 ext. 202 (JohnNelson) for information on **Geratherm** thermometers available for only **\$2.68 each**.

CALENDAR



Jan.- 8th – 10th Branch Chiefs' Meeting in Oklahoma City along with EIS tng.

16th OSHA Recordkeeping Rule Tng., Bemidji, Northern Inn (4 hrs.)

Feb.- 18-22, Institutional E.H. Officers meeting, San Diego